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The ^{Evans & Reeves} Grapevine

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IT'S TIME FOR...

Cinerarias; the endless **spring-blooming** perennials, shrubs and trees; a few **special bulbs**; and garden maintenance geared to special weather.

Our Walter Oertel-grown **Cinerarias**, every spring a phenomenon at Evans and Reeves, are as fine as ever despite February heat—incomparable blues, pinks pale and deep, white, wine, magenta, and multicolored—low bedding types at \$3.60 a dozen in three inch pots, specimens from \$1 each. Even a few of the larger ones will brighten your shade garden for two months or more depending upon weather and water. Most years one can give them full morning sun in the immediate coastal area, but if dry burning sun continues more shade and water are musts. Heat rolls the leaves, and the roots must NEVER dry out even for an hour. Try a fine fog spray of water twice a day in hot weather, but remember heavy overhead sprinkling will topple the blooms into mud.

The same situation and handling suit **Primula** of all kinds. **P. polyanthus**, the perennial Primrose, (35 cents each, \$3.60 a dozen) is coming into its long season now and you won't believe the color range unless you come in and look. The natural companion for Cinerarias, **P. polyanthus** should be permanent in your garden if you keep down snails and later the tiny green hairless caterpillars (with snail bait and malathion or chlordane).

Other choice shade perennials it's time to plant include **Bleeding Heart** and **As-tilbe**, \$2; **Helleborus orientale**, from \$1 and **H. corsicus**, \$2.50; and the evergreen, intermittently-blooming groundcovers **Schizocentron elegans**, cerise to magenta, \$1.25; **Erodium**, almost flat mounds of pale pink, 85 cents; and **Campanula** in variety—blue or white—from 40 cents.

While still in the shade let's remember some shrubbery — **Daphne ordora**, white or pink, \$2 and \$7.50; specimen **Rhododendrons**, \$15; and spring-blooming

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TREE WITH A PAST

Legend has it that Buddha attained perfect knowledge while resting in the shade of the **Bo-tree**. (Botanists have recognized this distinction in naming the tree **Ficus religiosa**.) This took place in faraway India some 2500 years ago, and though an ancient nine-story temple ultimately replaced the original sacred tree, its life was continued by means of a branch which was sent by King Asoka to the city of Anuradhapura in Ceylon in the third century B.C. The tree still flourishes in the ruins of that city, and is the constant object of worship by followers of Buddha, who journey to its shade and treasure its fallen leaves. This extraordinary tree has been tended through all the centuries by the priests of Buddha, and must therefore be the oldest tree of which there is a continuous record kept by man. Its welfare is literally a matter of daily concern to the faithful, to whom it reflects at once the strength and serenity of Buddha. This Bo-tree passed through some sort of cultural crisis just a few short years ago, which caused great anxiety and consternation in Ceylon where its behavior was given liberal interpretation in terms of world unrest.

In spite of its tropical origin, **Ficus**

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Landscape Lines

When and if your appendix has to be removed and you require a little internal remodeling; you do not consult your veterinarian. Yet figuratively speaking many people do just that, when it becomes necessary to do some remodeling in the garden.

Today is definitely the age of specialization. Your ailing dog goes to the veterinarian; you go to your specialist. And so should the symptoms of an ailing garden be taken to a specialist; in this case, a landscape architect or a skilled horticulturist.

Residents of southern California have been critized on occasion, for a tendency towards regimentation in their gardens; a tendency towards a monotonous use of certain standardized evergreen shrubs. Too many people have fallen into the habit of landscaping their homes by ordering a "job lot" of fast-growing plants, without regard for their merits, their habits, or their desires. As a result, there are a lot of ailing gardens! Gardens that are actually a heterogeneous jumble of odds and ends, planted without rhyme or reason, and with a total disregard for the natural characteristics of the plants.

Fortunately, situations like these are not hopeless. Seemingly impossible gardens can be, and are being, streamlined every day. The valiant gardener is taking stock of his premises, casting a critical eye over his outdated, overgrown, badly chosen plants; and taking a cue from the college cheer leader, he is "giving 'em the axe, the axe, the axe." Then before spending a dollar, he consults a specialist (and with all due deference, most gardeners are not specialists).

So much do the problems of scale and appropriateness enter into the making of a perfect garden, that the advice of a specialist is almost mandatory. The amateur, lacking this skill, is apt to end up with a garden of unrelated dibs and dabs that will cost him more in maintenance than he has bargained for. There are hundreds of choice plants in the nurseries today—the important thing is how and where they should be used. That is the concern of the specialist; and here at Evans and Reeves we are modestly proud of our specialists; the trained landscape architects and skilled horticulturists in our organization.

J.E.

IT'S TIME FOR...

(Continued from front page)

Azaleas, from \$1.85. The toughest and least-problematical of all Azaleas is the great rose-purple **Southern Indica, Phoenicia**. Equally good in shade or considerable sun and almost any well-drained soil, it is also the longest blooming.

Try **Azalea Phoenicia** with the even taller-growing **Tibouchina semidecandra** (Princess Flower) (95 cents and \$4), with the lower, purplish-rose **Heterocentron elegans** (\$1.25), and a ground cover of **Schizocentron**. There you have a symphony of brilliant rose to purple flowers blooming simultaneously with foliage AND form harmonious. An ideal spot for this grouping will be where the taller plants can have shaded feet and heads in sun at least part of day; and an ideal food for this quartet will be ammonium phosphate and Iron-tone, two pounds to 100 square feet of former and two teaspoons per plant of latter, two or three times a year.

Weigelia rosea is a large-growing, fast, deciduous shrub famous for its spring and early summer rose-pink masses of flower, best placed in high shade or half-day sun with ample water; fine plants, five gallon, \$3.75. A natural companion is the **Crab-apple** tree — rose-pink to almost white—**Malus eleyi**, \$4.50, **Malus ioensis** variety Bechtel, \$4, or Transcendent, \$4. You might also try a **Flowering Ash**, **Fraxinus ornus**, \$4.50, new and untried with us. And of course you know the various **Flowering Peach** varieties; **Helen Borchers** (seven foot, \$7.50) is late, extra-large pink flowering, yet to come into bloom.

Well-known evergreen shrubbery for various uses include the **Brooms**, 85 cents up (yellow, white, maroon); **Chamaelaucium** (Geraldton Wax Flower), \$4; and the endless **Hibiscus**, \$1.50 and \$4. And among the evergreen trees yet to blossom we call your attention especially to **Hymenoporum** (The Sweet Shade), fragrant yellow; and **Calodendrum capense** (Cape Chestnut), orchid pink; each \$4.50.

A permanent red-flowering bulb for sun, new with us in established large clumps, is **Sprekelia formosissima**, the Jacobean Lily. Bloom is controlled by watering — alternate wet and dry. At \$2.50 per clump of some five bulbs (75 cents each at bulb-planting time) these are a bargain in garden brilliance.

P.E.C.

BURNING BUSH

Never has the common name of a plant so aptly described it as "**Flame Bush**" for the *Calliandra Tweedii* now blazing on our drive. The masses of scarlet staminous flowers which completely encloak the shrub make it indeed a "burning bush."

Introduced from South America over a hundred years ago by John Tweedie as *Inga pulcherrima* ("very beautiful"), also a name which does not exaggerate, it has since been reclassified and renamed *Calliandra* ("beautiful stamens") *Tweedii*.

In addition to its brilliant beauty, *Calliandra Tweedii* has many positive qualities to recommend it: recurrent flowering over the year; growth in sun or shade (shade reduces the number of blossoms, but produces an open, very ferny habit); progress in any soil; a growth habit which does not overwhelm its situation but serves to fill out the space allotted. (The specimen on our drive has taken some fifteen years to attain its eight feet—though of course the spread has been controlled by passing cars!)

No black and white photo can do justice to the hundreds of silky scarlet blossoms surmounting the delicate bipinnate foliage of clear light green on the specimen or in one and five gallon cans (\$1.25 and \$4.50), so we urge you to see it for yourself, and be impressed as we are anew each time we see the "Flame Bush."

BO-TREE . . .

(Continued from front page)

religiosa does very well for us in the coastal areas of southern California where it may be classed as a small to medium tree of distinctive appearance. the shiny green leaves are medium sized, heart-shaped with a long, pointed tail, and they are so delicately suspended from the branches that the slightest breeze causes them to shimmer in the manner of the Aspen. In our climate the tree is almost, but not quite evergreen. Oddly enough, foliage is carried all through the winter, but in April or May nearly all the old leaves fall quite suddenly as though being pushed off the tree by the new leaves which burst forth in bright golden green as the last of the old leaves fall. One of the very few specimens in this area may

Hugh Evans

Between 1916 and 1918, when England was in the shambles and agony of the first world war, 2,047,978 people visited Kew Gardens in England. Most of these people probably were not attracted by scientific interest but by their love of beauty, which in those dreadful days, was being destroyed in a shocking manner in various countries. Today the number of visitors to Kew is increasing yearly, surely a heartening sign in these days of hectic excitement and amusements. The influence of Kew has of course helped to civilize the world and has caused, all over the globe, two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before. It has together with other great botanic gardens conferred an imperishable boon on mankind. Kew Garden's men are found all over the world aiding nature and turning the jungle and desert into orchards, plantations and farms.

Some one hundred fifty to two hundred thousand people visited the Huntington Gardens and Library last year. Considering the large population of Los Angeles County alone, together with the thousands of tourists who come to Los Angeles, this seems a sad commentary on the taste of our people. I believe that men and women must come away after a visit there with at least as much spiritual uplift and inspiration as they would derive from going to the races for instance, and I realize too, that any danger of this great institution having any injurious effect on race track attendance is at present, hardly discernible.

The Huntington Botanic Gardens are famous in all quarters of the world, and whenever I encounter those who have never been there, and there are too many of them, I am not satisfied till I have induced them to go. They invariably come back wiser men and women for the experience and for the living evidence that so much beauty exists right at their door.

be seen on the south side of Sunset near Cliffwood Avenue.

No large plants of *Ficus religiosa* are available locally, but young plants grow quite rapidly and offer an interesting and, we think, most welcome alternative to the Elm, Pepper, *Pittosporum* bracket. Yes, we have some nice plants in five-gallon containers at \$6. M.E.

NOW HEAR THIS!

Evans and Reeves Cymbidiums

Reduced 20 percent during March!

At the height of the flowering season our fine, large selection of Cymbidium Orchids will be offered at a 20 percent reduction, providing a rare opportunity for collectors and beginners alike to purchase these easy to grow, floriferous, outdoor Orchids at inviting prices! Inspect our choice stock early for your selections.